

09/646984

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Case 7070

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the matter of

U.S. National Phase Entry
Under 35 USC 371 from
the International Application of
Rubingh, Donn Nelson et al
Int'l Application No. PCT/IB99/00520
Filed in the RO/US on 25 March 1999
Entitled: Serine Protease Variants Having Amino
Acid Deletions And Substitutions

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Before computing the fees for entering the captioned International Application into the U.S. National Phase, please enter the following amendments **IN THE CLAIMS**:

Please cancel Claims 3-10.

Please add the following new claims:

11. A variant according to Claim 2 wherein the serine protease is subtilisin BPN'.
12. A variant according to Claim 11 wherein the deletion is of one or more of positions 73 - 83 corresponding to subtilisin BPN'.
13. A variant according to Claim 11 wherein the deletion is of one or more of positions 70 and 75 - 82 corresponding to subtilisin BPN'.
14. A variant according to Claim 13 wherein the deletion is of one or more of positions 75 - 82 corresponding to subtilisin BPN'.
15. A variant according to Claim 13 selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) Δ 70, 75 - 82;
 - (b) Δ 75 - 82;
 - (c) Δ 70, 78, 79;
 - (d) Δ 70;
 - (e) Δ 75;
 - (f) Δ 76;
 - (g) Δ 78;